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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ryokichi Matsumoto et al
Serial No. : 09/638,162
Filed : August 14, 2000
For : POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER
AND POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL
FIBER COMPONENT
Group Art Unit : 2874
Examiner :

March 9, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56 and § 1.97(b), Applicants wish to call
the attention of the Examiner to the references listed below.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application , First Publication No. Hei 2-
271307 (A)

Japanese Examined Patent Application, Second Publication, Patent No.
2649271 (B2)

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Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, Second Publication No. Sho 62-30602 (B2)

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. Hei 4-146849 (A)

Copies of these references are submitted herewith along with Form PTO/SB/08A.

The relevance of the listed references is as follows.

References 1 and 2 disclose a method of manufacturing a polarization maintaining optical fiber coupler comprising the steps of: fixing stress applying section positions of two polarization maintaining optical fibers; and fusing and elongating a part of said two polarization maintaining optical fibers.

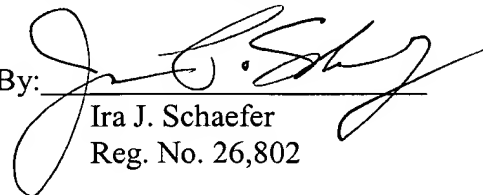
Reference 3 discloses an optical fiber coupler manufactured by fusing and elongating a part of a plurality of polarization maintaining optical fibers in a state fixing the fiber main axes. In said polarization maintaining optical fibers, the refractive index reference of the stress applying sections matches the refractive index reference of cladding.

Reference 4 relates to vehicle occupant crash protection.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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